

Michigan School-to-Registered Apprenticeship (STRA) Program

Program Definition:

The School-to-Registered Apprenticeship (STRA) Program is a formal, structured, and nationally recognized system of occupational education and training. Modeled after the federal apprenticeship program, the STRA Program allows high school students the opportunity to begin apprenticeship training while still in high school as a part of their traditional high school curriculum.

The STRA Program provides students with quality, high-skilled, high-pay occupational training by combining classroom instruction with paid on-the-job training. Training is long-term, formal, and structured, lasting between two and five years. Employers who participate must agree to employ the student apprentice while in high school, guarantee full-time employment upon graduation, provide guaranteed wage increases, and assist in paying the student's post-high school community college tuition and fees.

Program Availability:

The STRA Program is available to all high school juniors and seniors who are at least sixteen years of age.

Program Highlights:

The STRA Program allows high school students to participate in a traditional apprenticeship program with a local business as a sponsor. Apprenticeship programs provide up-to-date, high-quality education and training in high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand occupations and careers utilizing both classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Student candidates must complete a series of "Selection Activities" to qualify for interviews with participating employers that includes:

- Completing an application.
- Attending a student/parent orientation.
- Completing the program assessment.
- Participating in business tours.
- Attending a pre-interview workshop.
- Possibly having a physical and/or drug test.

Employers wishing to participate must develop a training plan and register with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship & Training and commit to providing paid on-the-job training during the summer and throughout the student's senior year. In addition, employers must guarantee students full-time employment upon graduation and subsidize the students' post-high school classroom tuition and fees.

It can take two to five years to complete a program. Upon completion, the student receives a "Certificate of Completion" from the U.S. Department of Labor. These credentials are recognized by those in the industry nationwide and identify the bearer as one who has completed a high-quality training program.

The Program Offers:

- Formal, structured, long-term, high-quality paid career training.
- Employment with a set wage structure that includes guaranteed wage increases.
- Guaranteed full-time employment and employer-paid community college tuition.
- Completion credentials recognized by those in the industry nationwide.

Special Features:

- Any high school junior or senior meeting minimum requirements may apply.
- Students need only complete the Selection Activities to qualify for an interview.
- Activities help students learn about themselves, careers, and occupations. The activities also introduce them to the “real world” of career planning and the challenge of securing gainful employment and continued education and training opportunities.
- Employers select students for sponsorship based on each student’s application, portfolio information, assessment scores, and interview results.

Program Requirements:

- High school junior or senior 16 years of age or older, and physically capable of performing the occupational tasks.
- Have a sincere interest in the industry, career, or occupation.
- Be highly motivated with a positive attitude and a willingness to work.
- Exhibit good attendance.
- Be in good academic standing.
- Previous occupational classroom instruction or work experience preferred.

Career Paths:

Currently this nation is experiencing a very serious shortage of qualified skilled individuals in many occupations. Apprenticeship programs provide students with a quality career training “head start” leading to more advanced education, training, and employment opportunities in a variety of occupations and industries.

Possibilities include company-paid advanced training opportunities, position advancement, state licensing or certification, and company-paid bachelor’s and master’s degrees in careers such as engineering.

Available Programs:

- Construction Trades
 - Electrical
 - Plumbing
 - Carpentry
 - Masonry
 - Remodeling
- Heating and Ventilation
- Manufacturing & Machine Tool
- Electronics & Computer Technology
- Auto Technology & Auto Body

- Landscaping
- Stage Technician
- Food Service Management

Contact Information:

For additional information you may contact:

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